THE

WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

For MONDAY, January 9, 1792.

The Life of Joseph Balsamo, commonly called Count Cagliostro; containing the singular and uncommon Adventures of that extraordinary Personage, from his Birth till his Imprisonment in the Castle of St. Angelo.

[Translated from the Original Proceedings published at Rome by order of the Apostolic Chamber.

(*Concluded from Page* 17.)

CAGLIOSTRO, after making a variety of quotations from the book which had been lent him, relapsed into his former impieties, and spoke as follows: "I understand that those who honour their father and their mother, and respect the sovereign pontiff, are beloved of God; so, in the same manner, all that I have done, I have done by the order of God, by means of the power which he has communicated to me; and to the advantage of God and his holy church: and I am able to give proofs of all that I have said and done, not only physically, but morally; for having served God merely for the love of God, and by the power of God, he entrusted me with a counter-poison to confound and combat the venom of hell; and if I have done wrong, the Holy Father will punish me; if I have done right, he will recompense me; and if his Holiness had these interrogatories given to him this very night, I prophesy that I should be set at liberty to-morrow morning."

On being desired to give proofs of his mission, he replied: "To prove that I have been chosen by God, as an apostle, to defend and propagate religion, I affirm that, as holy church has instituted pastors to demonstrate to all the world that she alone professes

professes the true catholic faith, so I, who have operated in conjunction with the pastors of holy church, and by their approbation, counsel, and direction, am, as I have already asserted, fully justified in regard to all my operations. Those two pastors who have thus comforted me, and assured me that my Egyptian masonry is of divine origin, are ———— ; and they besides added, that it had so much merit, that the Sovereign Pontiff ought to form an order on its basis."

He persisted in these subterfuges during his last interrogatories. It ought to be observed, however, that one of those pastors whom he mentioned had been for some time dead, and could not therefore give him the lye; and that, as to the other, he was a person whom he had seduced and deceived by means of a variety of impostures. As to that part in which he speaks about forming his disciples in Egyptian masonry into a religious order, under the protection of his Holiness, it is a gross imposition. It is however true, according to the confession of his wife, that his followers at Strasburgh wished him to remain along with them, and offered to purchase a house which they intended to convert into a convent for masons, and in which they and their wives, who were to live in common with all the disciples, proposed to reside,

The monstrous contradictions that were apparent in all his answers, form a convincing proof that his pretended penitence was nothing more than a mere subterfuge. During his first examinations, he confessed his errors, acknowledged the wrongs which he had committed against the Catholic church, and vowed that he merited a severe chastisement; but he soon after changed his sentiments, and once more pretended to be an apostle, who, inflamed with zeal for religion, had laboured to propagate a system which he then thought, and still believed, to be good, and which has a perfect conformity to the precepts of the church. Notwithstanding all this, in the course of his interrogatories he confessed—

"1. That his system admitted, as a fundamental basis, a total indifference as to the religion of the candidates.

"2. That according to his doctrines it was always enjoined, in Catholic and Non-Catholic countries, to attack and overturn the ruling religion.

"3. That Heretics and Catholics were equally honoured in this society.

"4. That, since the origin of his masonry, he has never believed in that part relative to the physical and moral regeneration;

ration; and that one of the pastors whom he mentioned condemned it as a ridiculous chimæra.

"5. That, in addition to this, he had felt many scruples of conscience in regard to his system; and well knew that in Italy, where the Catholic religion universally prevails, masonry is not permitted.

"6. That at Trent he had adhered to the counsels of his confessor, who had commanded him to abandon his Egyptian masonry, because it was condemned by two bulls of the Pope; that at Rome he had fallen at the feet of a priest, and demanded absolution; and that he was determined to accuse himself to the Holy Office, but that he had neglected to do so."

After the recapitulation of these facts, which were admitted by himself, it will be easy to conceive the astonishing obstinacy, and the horrid impiety, with which this man was animated in his zeal for masonry.

But it may be here asked, of what religion was this wretch, and in what religion did he really believe? Properly speaking, he had no religion at all. It appears at first that his system tended towards deism; but, as interest was the only divinity which he worshipped, he conformed himself according to the time, the place, and the persons with whom he carried on an intercourse. Thus, in compliance with the exigency of the case, he was either a deist, an atheist, a materialist, a Calvinist, a Lutheran, but never a Catholic. He would not indeed have hesitated a moment to have exhibited a hypocritical compliance in regard to the duties of that holy religion, if he could have drawn any advantage from it; but he had no occasion to have recourse to this expedient, as he lived for the greater part of his life in those countries where its blessings are not experienced. In fine, he abhorred religion, whether practical or theoretical.

During twenty-seven years of his life he was never perceived to make the sign of the cross, nor to exhibit any other mark of religion; and during that whole period he did not approach the holy sacrament above three times. Indeed it would have been much better if he had abstained even on these occasions, as he was induced to these duties by no other motives than those of interest and fear; whether it was at Milan, with a view to obtain a passport for the pilgrimage of St. James of Galicia; in Spain, from a dread of the Holy Office; or at Trent, to deceive the Prince-Bishop by means of an affected piety.

He was a still less diligent observer of those precepts of the church which enjoin the hearing of mass on festivals, and to

fast, and abstain from flesh meat, on certain occasions. Not content, as he himself acknowledges, to leave these duties unfulfilled, he even induced others to neglect them.

In the course of his history we have had frequent opportunities to see with what wickedness he expressed himself on all occasions as to morality, adultery, chastity, and other cardinal points of our religion. The impious life which he led, and the principle of that system which he propagated, make us sufficiently acquainted with the maxims which he himself cherished, and wished to propagate.

This is the proper place to give an account of all the execrable doctrines which he uttered during his last residence in Rome. His judges have been occupied in collecting the proofs; but we shall here recapitulate them, as it would be highly improper to scandalize the public by the recapitulation of such blasphemies. It is necessary, however, that we should mention three circumstances.

The first is, that on all occasions he manifested the most obstinate hatred and contempt for the Catholic religion, its ministers, and ceremonies. He attacked the majesty and perfection of God, the divinity of Jesus Christ, his death, the grand work of redemption, the virginity of Mary, the efficacy of the sacraments, the dignity of the church; in short, every thing that is most venerable and most respected either in Heaven or on earth.

The second, that, according to the evidence of a great number of witnesses who have conversed with him themselves, or known others who have done so, he is unanimously represented "as a man destitute of religion, whose principles are entirely corrupted, who does not believe in any thing; and one who is generally considered as an atheist, an impostor, a cheat, a heretic, a deist, &c. absolutely devoid of every principle of religion and morality."

The third is, that, although he strenuously denied all these imputations, yet he has been obliged to confess a variety of circumstances, which sufficiently indicate his guilt. It is to be observed also, that he objected to the testimony of his own wife, and all the witnesses adduced against him, sometimes on one pretence and sometimes on another, although they were for the most part people of birth, fortune, and education, against whom no just accusation could be brought. When one family in particular were mentioned, he had the impudence to assert that they were his determined enemies, on account of his having remonstrated against their attachment to theatrical amusements,

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which he had reprefented as being fubverfive of morality, and the Catholic religion.

His trial being at length finifhed, it was left to his own difcretion, either to employ the counfellors ufually allotted to criminals, or to choofe others; but he was contented with the firft.

The knowledge and abilities of Signor Gaëtano Bertano Bernardini, an advocate of acknowledged worth and character, employed in defence of thofe accufed before the Holy Inquifition, rendered him every way capable of undertaking his defence. But to take away from the prifoner every pretence for calumniating the tribunal and the judges, as he had formerly done in other countries, it was thought proper to join to the firft the moft noble Signior Charles Louis Conftantini, advocate for the poor in all the tribunals at Rome. The world is well acquainted with the charity, the zeal, and above all the talents and abilities, with which he exercifes this dignified employment.

But Caglioftro did not find in thefe defenders the fame kind of advocates which he had experienced during his former trials. Far from feconding his tricks and impoftures, they fpoke to him in the language of truth, and fhewed him the bad ftate of his caufe, and of his confcience. He began to perceive the unhappy end to which his obftinate impenitence and perfeverance in error were ready to conduct him. He therefore requefted fpiritual fuccour and inftruction; thefe were accordingly provided for him, and he was put under the guidance of a learned and devout prieft. After the firft interview, the culprit exhibited the moft lively marks of contrition and repentance, and perfifted in the fame fentiments.

In the mean time his defence was prepared and publifhed. This pleading, at one and the fame time, exhibited the talents of his counfel, and the bad ftate of his caufe.

At length the day for paffing judgment arrived. This was preceded, like all the reft of the procefs, by the moft fcrupulous and rigorous forms of juftice which are in ufage in our ordinary criminal tribunals. They prove the exact and circumfpect adminiftration of the laws, and evince to the culprits that they are not condemned without the moft minute and laborious inveftigation.

The procefs was then carried before the General Affembly of the Holy Office on the 21ft of March, 1791; and according to cuftom, before the Pope on the 7th of April following.

The judgment did not merit a long and laborious difcuffion. Caglioftro himfelf had avowed, and the moft convincing proofs had

had demonstrated, that he was the restorer and propagator of Egyptian masonry in many parts of the world; that he had exercised this system at Rome; and that he had admitted two persons into its mysteries.

It was in vain that he had endeavoured to make use of the sentiments and authority of those, who said that the pains and punishment awarded against even an obstinate heretic, ought to be commuted whenever he evinced unfeigned marks of contrition.

It was in vain that he wished to derive an advantage from the recent signs of repentance which he had exhibited; the edict of the Council of State, which we have mentioned in the preceding chapter, could not be dispensed with. The pains of death expresly awarded there ought in a particular manner to be inflicted on a man, who in all concerns, whether ecclesiastical or secular, had given himself up to every manner of wickedness, and might justly be considered as one of the most pernicious members of society.

But his destiny was confided to persons animated with the noblest sentiments; to men whose hearts were warmed with the rays of that beneficence and indulgence which religion always inculcates, and with which the consultors of the Holy Inquisition have ever been inspired. It is also to be observed, that the definitive judgment was reserved for the consideration of the great Pius VI. who in the course of his glorious pontificate has ever united the characters of a just and a clement prince. He was not anxious for the death of a sinner; but, on the contrary, wished that he should have time allowed him for repentance.

Here follows the judgment pronounced by the Supreme Oracle, on the person of Joseph Balsamo: it entirely accords with justice, equity, prudence, religion, and public tranquillity; and is equally calculated for the dominions of the Pope, and all the Christian world. We shall therefore give an exact transcript of it.

"Joseph Balsamo, attained and convicted of many crimes, and of having incurred the censures and penalties pronounced against formal heretics, dogmatists, heresiarchs, and propagators of magic and superstition, has been found guilty, and condemned to the censures and penalties denounced as well by the apostolic laws of Clement XII. and of Benedict XIV. against those who in any manner whatever, favour or form societies and conventicles of free masons, as by the edict of the Council of

State

State against those who are guilty of this crime at Rome, or any other place under the dominion of the Pope.

" Notwithstanding this, by way of special grace and favour, this crime, the expiation of which demands the delivery of the culprit over to the secular arm, to be by it punished with death, is hereby changed, and commuted into perpetual imprisonment, in a fortress where the culprit is to be strictly guarded, without any hope of pardon whatever. And after he shall have made abjuration of his offences, as a formal heretic, in that place of his imprisonment, he shall be absolved from ecclesiastical censures; and certain salutary penance is to be prescribed to him, to which he is hereby ordered to submit.

" The manuscript book which has for its title " Egyptian Masonry,' is solemnly condemned, as containing rites, propositions, a doctrine and a system which open a road to sedition, as tending to destroy the Christian religion, and as being superstitious, impious, heretical, and abounding in blasphemy: this book shall therefore be burnt by the hand of the hangman; and also all the other books, instruments, symbols, &c. &c. appertaining and belonging to this sect.

" By a new apostolic law, we shall confirm and renew not only the laws of the preceding pontiffs; but also the edict of the Council of State, which prohibits the societies and conventicles of free masons, making particular mention of the Egyptian sect, and of another vulgarly called the Illuminated; and we shall enact the most grievous corporal punishments, and principally those provided for heretics, against whosoever shall associate, hold communication with, or protect, these societies."

The History of the Life of Baron Trenck. In which is introduced a particular Account of the extraordinary Sufferings which he underwent by Command of the late King of Prussia.

[Extracted from his own Narrative.]

(*Continued from Page* 5.)

I Had scarcely been six weeks a cadet before the King took me aside, one day, after the parade, and, having examined me near half an hour, on various subjects, commanded me to come and speak to him on the morrow.

His intention was to find whether the accounts that had been given him of my memory had not been exaggerated; and, that

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he might be convinced, he first gave me the names of fifty soldiers to learn by rote, which I did in five minutes. He next repeated the subjects of two letters, which I immediately composed in French and Latin; the one I wrote, the other I dictated. He afterward ordered me to trace, with promptitude, a landscape from nature, which I executed with equal success; and he then gave me a Cornet's commission in his body guards.

Each mark of bounty from the Monarch increased an ardour already great, inspired me with gratitude, and the first of my wishes was to devote my whole life to the service of my King and country. He spoke to me, as a Sovereign should speak, like a father, like one who knew well how to estimate the gifts bestowed on me by nature; and perceiving, or rather feeling, how much he might expect from me, became at once my instructor and my friend.

Thus did I remain a Cadet only six weeks, and few Prussians can vaunt, under the reign of Frederic, of equal good fortune.

The King not only presented me with a commission, but equipped me splendidly for the service. Thus did I suddenly find myself a courtier, and an officer in the finest, bravest, and best disciplined corps in Europe. My good fortune seemed unlimited when, in the month of August 1743, the King selected me to go and instruct the Silesian cavalry in the new manœuvres; an honour never before granted to a youth of eighteen.

I have already said we were garrisoned at Berlin during winter, where the officers' table was at court; and, as my reputation had preceded me, no person whatever could be better received there, or live more pleasantly.

Frederic commanded me to visit the literati, whom he had invited to his Court: Maupertuis, Jordan, La Metrie, and Pollnitz were all my acquaintance. My days were employed in the duties of an officer, and my nights in acquiring knowledge. Pollnitz was my guide, and the friend of my heart. My happiness was well worthy being envied. In 1743, I was five feet eleven inches in height, and nature had endowed me with every requisite to please. I lived, as I vainly imagined, without inciting enmity or malice, and my mind was wholly occupied by the desire of earning well-founded fame.

I had hitherto remained ignorant of love, and had been terrified from illicit commerce, by beholding the dreadful objects of the hospital at Potzdam. During the winter of 1743, the nuptials of his Majesty's sister were celebrated, who was married

ried to the King of Sweden, where ſhe is at preſent Queen Dowager, mother of the reigning Guſtavus. I, as officer of my corps, had the honour to mount guard, and eſcort her as far as Stettin. Here firſt did my heart feel a paſſion of which, in the courſe of my hiſtory, I ſhall have frequent occaſion to ſpeak. The object of my love was one whom I can only remember at preſent with reverence; and, as I write not romance, but facts, I ſhall here briefly ſay, our's were mutually the firſt fruits of affection, and that to this hour I regret no misfortune, no miſery, with which, from a ſtock ſo noble, my deſtiny was overſhadowed. Amid the tumult, inſeparable to occaſions like theſe, on which it was my duty to maintain order, a thief had the addreſs to ſteal my watch, and cut away a part of the gold fringe which hung from the waiſtcoat of my uniform, and afterward to eſcape unperceived. This accident brought on me the raillery of my comrades; and the lady alluded to thence took occaſion to conſole me, by ſaying, it ſhould be her care that I ſhould be no loſer. Her words were accompanied by a look I could not miſunderſtand, and a few days after I thought myſelf the happieſt of mortals. The name, however, of this high-born lady is a ſecret, which muſt deſcend with me to the grave; and, though my ſilence concerning this incident leaves a void in my life, and indeed throws obſcurity over a part of it, which might elſe be clear, I would much rather incur this reproach, than become ungrateful toward my beſt friend and benefactreſs. To her converſation, to her prudence, to the power by which ſhe fixed my affections wholly on herſelf, am I indebted for the improvement and poliſhing of my bodily and mental qualities. She never deſpiſed, betrayed, or abandoned me, even in the deepeſt of my diſtreſs; and my children alone, on my death bed, ſhall be taught the name of her to whom they owe the preſervation of their father, and conſequeutly their own exiſtence.

I lived at this time perfectly happy at Berlin, and highly eſteemed. The King took every opportunity to teſtify his approbation; my miſtreſs ſupplied me with more money than I could expend, and I was preſently the beſt equipped, and made the greateſt figure of any officer in the whole corps. The ſtile in which I lived was remarked, for I had only received from my father's heritage the eſtate of Great Scharlach; the rent of which was eight hundred dollars a year, which was far from ſufficient to ſupply my then expences. My amour, in the mean time, remained a ſecret from my beſt and moſt intimate friends. Twice was my abſence from Potzdam and

Charlottenberg discovered, and I was put under arrest; but the King seemed satisfied with the excuses I made, under pretext of having been hunting, and smiled as he granted my pardon.

Never did the days of youth glide away with more apparent success, and pleasure, than during these my first years at Berlin. This good fortune was, alas, of short duration. Many are the incidents I might relate, but which I shall omit. My other adventures are sufficiently numerous, without mingling such as may any way seem foreign to the subject. In this gloomy history of life, I wish to paint myself such as I am; and, by the recital of my sufferings, afford a memorable example to the world, and interest the heart of sensibility. I would also shew how my fatal destiny has deprived my children of an immense fortune; and, though I want a hundred thousand men to enforce and ensure my rights, I will leave demonstration to my heirs that they are incontestable.

In the beginning of September, 1744, war again broke out between the houses of Austria and Prussia. We marched with all speed toward Prague, traversing Saxony without opposition. I will not relate, in this place, what the great Frederic said to us, with evident emotion, when surrounded by all his officers, on the morning of our departure from Potzdam.

If I am not mistaken, the King's army came before Prague on the fourteenth of September, and that of General Schwerin which had passed through Silesia, arrived the next day on the other side of the Moldau. In this position we were obliged to wait some days for pontons, without which we could not establish a communication between the two armies.

The height called Zischka, which overlooks the city, being guarded only by a few Croats, was instantly seized, without opposition, by some grenadiers, and the batteries, erected at the foot of that mountain, being ready on the fifth day, played with such success on the old town, with bombs, and red-hot balls, that it was set on fire. The King made every effort to take the city, before Prince Charles could bring his army from the Rhine to its relief.

General Harsch thought proper to capitulate, after a siege of twelve days, during which not more than five hundred men of the garrison, at the utmost, were killed and wounded, though eighteen thousand men were made prisoners.

Thus far we had met with no impediment. The Imperial army, however, under the command of Prince Charles of Lorraine, having quitted the banks of the Rhine, was advancing to save Bohemia.

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During this campaign we ſaw the enemy only at a diſtance; but the Auſtrian light troops, being thrice as numerous as our's, prevented us from all foraging. Winter was approaching; dearth and hunger made Frederic determine to retreat, without the leaſt hope from the countries in our rear, which we had entirely laid waſte as we had advanced. The ſeverity of the ſeaſon, in the month of November, rendered the ſoldiers exceſſively impatient of their hardſhips; and, accuſtomed to conquer, the Pruſſians were aſhamed of and repined at retreat: The enemy's light troops facilitated deſertion, and we loſt, in a few weeks, above thirty thouſand men. The pandours of my kinſman, the Auſtrian Trenck, were inceſſantly at our heels, gave us frequent alarms, did us great injury, and, by their alertneſs, we never could make any impreſſion upon them with our cannon. Trenck at length paſſed the Elbe, and went and burnt and deſtroyed our magazines at Pardubitz: It was therefore reſolved wholly to evacuate Bohemia.

The King hoped to have brought Prince Charles to a battle between Benneſchan and Kannupitz, but in vain: The Saxons, during the night, had erected a battery of three and twenty cannon, on a mound which ſeparated two ponds: This was the preciſe road by which the King meant to make the attack.

Thus were we obliged to abandon Bohemia. The dearth, both for man and horſe, began to grow extreme. The weather was bad; the roads and ruts were deep; marches were continual, and alarms and attacks from the enemy's light troops became inceſſant. The diſcontent all theſe inſpired was univerſal, and this occaſioned the great loſs of the army.

(To be continued.)

The Hiſtory of Knowledge, Learning, and Taſte, in Great Britain, during the Reign of Queen Elizabeth. Part the Second.

[From the New Annual Regiſter for the Year 1790.]

(Continued from Page 13.)

THOUGH the era of juſt opinions with regard to conſtitutional freedom was not fully arrived, few ages had been more diſtinguiſhed by a knowledge of general politics. The ſcience of practical government was well underſtood, and carried to a great height. Scarcely any reign can be mentioned, in

in the whole course of our history, which has been productive of such a set of wise, able, and upright statesmen. To enumerate them, and especially to enter into a display of their merits, would lead us to a transgression of the limits to which we are confined. The names of Sir Thomas Smith, Sir Nicholas Bacon, Walter Devereux, Earl of Essex, William Davison, Sir Francis Walsyngham, and William Cecil, Lord Burghley, will naturally occur to such of our readers as are not strangers to the biography of their country; and the catalogue might admit of a copious enlargement.

Now we are speaking of statesmen, it would not be amiss to take notice of the intriguing spirit of the age. Most of the young men of the time, of any fashion or liberal education, applied themselves to the study of politics; and for this purpose sedulously cultivated those branches of knowledge which were calculated to fit them for public life. The antient tongues they possessed in the ordinary course of academical institutions; but their immediate view of recommending themselves to government, and of rising to the offices of the state, particularly led them to obtain a skill in modern languages, and to engage in foreign travel, that they might communicate intelligence to their respective patrons. The languages they chiefly studied were the French, the Italian, and the Spanish. It is amusing to observe, in reading the memorials of the times, how anxiously these young statesmen picked up every degree of information they could meet with in the countries they visited, how diligently they conveyed it to their employers, how ingenuously they speculated upon it, and how solicitous they were to to display their own political sagacity and importance.

The reign of Queen Elizabeth was not unfruitful in eminent lawyers, some of whom by their learned writings added considerably to the knowledge of their profession. This was particularly the case with regard to Edmund Plowden, Sir James Dyer, Sir Edmund Anderson, and Sir John Popham.

Plowden's and Sir James Dyer's Reports still, we believe, maintain a share of reputation, and are of some, though probably of no very great consequence in the present course of legal study. Dyer presided in the Court of Common Pleas, with distinguished ability and integrity, twenty-four years; a space of time which perhaps has only been equalled in a single instance. A high character both of Plowden's and Dyer's works has been given by Sir Edward Coke. He says of Plowden's Commentaries, that they are exquisite and elaborate; and he describes Sir James Dyer's observations as summary and fruitful.

ful. Judge Jenkins likewiſe, in the preface of his "Centuries," ſpeaks of Dyer and Plowden as remarkably great men, who have illuſtrated our law by their learned publications.

William Fleetwood, who, in this reign was a very celebrated and active Recorder of London, wrote a few things in the way of his profeſſion. Thomas Owen, a Judge of the Common Pleas, had in his younger life been the author of a book of Reports. William Fulbeck extended his views to a more general ſpecies of legal compoſition. Beſides treating on Chriſtian Ethics, and making a collection relative to the Roman Hiſtory, he publiſhed a direction or preparation to the Study of the Law, and a Parallel or Conference of the Civil, the Canon, and the Common Law.

Walter Haddon, Adam Blackwood, and Alexander Arbuthnot, were civilians of reputation. To Haddon the praiſe may be added of his having been one of the moſt elegant Latin ſcholars of the time. If credit is to be given to the encomiums that have been paſſed on Blackwood, his talents were conſiderable, but he diſgraced them by his arbitrary principles. He was a ſtrenuous advocate for the divine authority of princes over their ſubjects, and took great pains to prove that Kings are not accountable to their people for any crimes whatſoever. With theſe ſentiments it is not ſurprizing that he ſhould write with much warmth againſt George Buchanan's treatiſe "*de Jure Regni apud Scotos.*" Buchanan, on account of this famous work, which roſe ſo greatly above the general ſpirit of the age, deſerves here to be particularly noticed; though we ſhall hereafter have occaſion more than once, to remember him, ſo various are his claims to applauſe.

Arbuthnot is ſaid to have been eminent as a poet, a philoſopher, a mathematician, a divine, and a phyſician. But no regard is to be paid to ſuch extravagant praiſes. He only diſtinguiſhed himſelf by one publication, which was written in Latin, and is eſteemed a learned and elegant performance. We mean his "Orations on the Origin and Dignity of the Law." It is a circumſtance to his honour, that he was the firſt editor of Buchanan's Hiſtory of Scotland. In a former article we forgot to ſpecify as a legal writer, Sir Robert Broke, who flouriſhed in the reigns of King Edward VI. and Queen Mary, and who roſe to be Lord Chief Juſtice of the Common Pleas. He is applauded by Sir Edward Coke; and Judge Jenkins has ranked him with Plowden, Dyer, and the moſt eminent authors of the kind.

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The great general principles of natural philoſophy, ſo far as natural philoſophy is founded on truth and experiment, continued nearly in the ſame ſtate of ignorance in which they had long ſubſiſted. In this reſpect Ariſtotle was ſtill the grand authority, an analyſis of whom was publiſhed by James Cheyne, afterwards rector of the Scotch College at Douay, in Flanders. The ſame author wrote upon the celeſtial globe, and upon geography; but with what ſucceſs we are not able to ſay; for his works, though applauded by his contemporaries, are now, we ſuppoſe, conſigned to abſolute oblivion. James Baſſantin, another Scotſman, publiſhed a treatiſe on aſtronomy, which was ſo popular, as to go through three editions. In the title which was given it by Tirnœſius, who tranſlated from French into Latin, it is called "*Opus Abſolutiſſimum*," a moſt perfect work. At preſent, however, it is as much forgotten as the production of his countryman James Cheyne.

Baſſantin had uudoubtedly the reputation of being one of the greateſt aſtronomers of the age; but whatever might be his abilities, they were diſgraced by the infatuation of judicial aſtrology; the beſt apology for which is, that it was the error of the times.

Though natural philoſophy, in its moſt extenſive ſenſe, was little underſtood, mathematical ſcience was cultivated in a very conſiderable degree. Great Britain, during the reign of Elizabeth, produced ſeveral men who roſe to eminence in this department of knowledge. Among the reſt may be reckoned Baſſantin, already mentioned. Biſhop Tanner ſays of him, that he far excelled all the mathematicians of the age; but the learned prelate was probably no judge of the matter, and might rely on the ſole teſtimony of Thomas Dempſter, who, to ſpeak as favourably of him as poſſible, is an incompetent authority.

(To be continued.)

Deſcription of a moſt beautiful Snipe, ſhot Dec. 13, 1791, near Dereham, in Norfolk, by Mr. Colliſon, of that Town.

THE bird is unique in the peculiar elegance of its plumage, which appears to a common obſerver orange and white. It correſponds in its principal particulars with the common ſnipe of Pennant, the *ſcolopoſe gallenago* of Linnæus, its weight being nearly four ounces, the length to the end of the tail

twelve

twelve inches; its bill is three inches long, of a duſky colour at the baſe, and of a dark cinerous green at the end; the head is a dull white, and divided lengthwiſe, and three light coloured orange lines, one paſſing over the middle of the head, and one over each eye; the chin is cream-coloured; the neck and breaſt cream-coloured and yellow, or rather varied with light orange and white undulated. The ſcapulars are beautifully ſtriped lengthwiſe with light orange ſpots; the quill-feathers white; the back an intermixture of deep orange and white, with a few feathers ſpotted with brown; the belly white; coverts of the tail orange and white; near its bottom a broad bar of orange, like the common ſnipe, but not quite ſo deep, and ends in a light orange and white; the legs like the common ſnipe.

An Account of the Manufactures of Barcelona.

By JOSEPH TOWNSEND.

AMONGST the more conſiderable trades are the ſilk-weavers, cutlers, armourers, and braziers, carpenters, cabinet-makers, turners, with fringe-makers and embroiderers. I was particularly ſtruck with the gun-ſmiths, who appear not only numerous and diligent, but uncommonly dexterous in the handling of their tools. The turners are more than dexterous, making one foot upon occaſion ſerve the office of a hand to guide the tool, or to fix the poppet-head. The carpenters work in a manner peculiar to this city. They have neither pit ſaw, hand ſaw, carpenter's adze, axe, nor hatchet: to ſlit a plank, they fix it in a vice and uſe a ſpring ſaw ſtrained by a bow, for working which they require two men. At this we need not wonder much; yet, when we ſee two men employed with the ſame tool, that is, with a tool of the ſame form, but finer, to make either dove-tail joints for cabinets, or tenants for doors and ſaſhes, we muſt be allowed to ſmile. If they wiſh to ſmooth a board, they let it incline upon two wooden treſſels, and hew it acroſs the grain with a cooper's adze, not reflecting that an elaſtic body cannot reſiſt the ſtroke. It is by no means neceſſary that a mechanic ſhould be able to explain the laws of motion, but what philoſophers acquire by ſtudy he ſhould learn by obſervation, and with him experience ſhould ſupply the place of inſtinct, and ſuperſede the uſe of abſtract reaſoning.

The

The chocolate grinders have a method of working peculiar to Spain, and much preferable to that uſed in England. Our grinders, depending altogether on muſcular exertion, uſe only the muſcles of one arm, and employ thoſe muſcles to the greateſt diſadvantage; whereas in Barcelona, the ſlab, inſtead of being flat and horizontal, is curved, forming the ſedgment of a hollow cylinder, and is inclined to the horizon. The operator kneeling behind this, and leaning over it with a granite roller, which is ſomething longer than the ſlab is wide, grinds the chocolate, uſing both hands, and preſſing it with the weight of his body, as well as by the exertion of his arms.

This operator goes from houſe to houſe, becauſe moſt families chooſe to have their chocolate ground at home. For the market they have a more expeditious method, and grind the chocolate much finer than it can be made by hand. For this purpoſe five rollers of poliſhed ſteel, fixed in a frame, and appearing like the ſpokes of a wheel, or the radii of a circle, yet each turning round upon its axis, are placed between two millſtones, of which one is immoveable, whilſt the others with the rollers receive motion by communication, in common with two other mills of the ſame conſtruction, from a cog-wheel below ſtairs, which is turned in the uſual method by a mule. The nuts fall through hoppers to feed the mills. In this manner one man will grind three hundred weight of chocolate every day.

The manufactures of ſilk, cotton, and wool, adopt all the modern improvements. It is now about a twelvemonth ſince M. Pontet brought to them from France a model of a machine for ſpinning cotton better than it can be ſpun by hand, ſomething like that which was invented by Mr. Arkwright. As this machine is well known in England, I ſhall not deſcribe it. They have here a Company, eſtabliſhed by charter, for ſpinning American cotton to ſupply the manufactures which uſed to take annually from Malta ſpun cotton to the amount of 200,000 dollars, or 30,000l. ſterling. This Company enjoys many and valuable privileges. They have fourteen of the Mancheſter machines at work. As the cotton comes over foul, and full of ſand, they are obliged to prepare it before they can begin to work. This they do in a ſimple machine conſtructed for the purpoſe. They have a large lanthorn cylinder made with pantile laths, leaving half an inch between lath and lath. This cylinder is incline to the plane of the horizon, and is immoveable. Within this they leave a portion of a cone, approaching in its form to the containing cylinder, turning on

their

their common axis, and furnished with iron spikes of about five inches in length, placed in a spiral line, to correspond with similar spikes fixed within the cylinder, in order to tease and to cleanse the cotton. The person who turns this machine with one hand, feeds it with the other. Government, which is disposed to give every possible encouragement to this branch of manufacture, has granted to the Marquis de Gobert exclusive privileges for his blanket manufacture at Vicq, as a reward for his having planted cotton in the island of Ivica, and has offered premiums to those who spin the greatest length of thread from once ounce of cotton. For printing cottons they have the same slow process, which was practised in England, with stamps, previous to the use of cylinders.

The manufacture which gave me the greatest pleasure was one of woollen, carried on by Don Vincente Vernis. He employs 350 persons in making cloth for Spanish America, which indeed takes most of the Barcelona goods, except some silk smuggled with their brandy through Guernsey into England. He has a very compact and elegant machine for winding and twisting worsted, in which fourscore reels are managed by one little girl, whilst another gives motion to the whole, and at the same time employs herself at knitting. This child, sitting on a bench, treads a vertical wheel, which, by means of a wheel with cogs fixed on the other end of the same axis, moves the horizontal wheel, and thereby turns the spindles. When one of the girls is weary, the other takes her place.

The manufactures have increased with such rapidity, that the wages of labour for all kinds of artists in that city and the environs have advanced to two pistreems, 1s. 8d. a-day, for which they work only seven hours. The common labourer will earn 14d. in winter, but in harvest 20d. These gains, however, are not out of proportion to the value of provisions, as regulated by the magistrate. Mutton is sold for 10d. the pound of 36 ounces, beef for 7d. and bread at present for seven farthings the pound of 12 ounces; lodging for a small family costs about two guineas a-year.

The mechanics here allow, that to maintain a family with tolerable comfort, their gains must be one hundred livres Catalan for each, which is nearly 11l. sterling.

DESCRIPTION *of the* BANYAN TREE.

THE banyan tree, or Indian fig tree, is perhaps the most beautiful and surprising production of nature in the vegetable

getable kingdom.—Some of theſe trees are of amazing ſize; and, as they are always increaſing, they may in ſome meaſure be ſaid to be exempted from decay. Every branch from the trunk throws outs its own roots; firſt in ſmall fibres, at the diſtance of ſeveral yards from the ground; theſe continually becoming thicker when they approach the earth, take root, and ſhoot out new branches, which continue in this ſtate of progreſſion as long as they find ſoil to nouriſh them. The Hindoos are remarkably fond of this tree; for they look upon it as an emblem of the Deity, on account of its duration, its outſtretching arms, and its ſhadowy beneficence: they almoſt pay it divine honours, and

"Fine a fane in every ſacred grove."

Near theſe trees the moſt celebrated Pagados are generally erected. The Bramins ſpend their lives in religious ſolitude, under their friendly ſhade, and the natives of all caſts and tribes are fond of recreating in the cool receſſes and natural bowers of this umbrageous canopy, which is impervious to the fierceſt beams of the tropical ſun.

This tree in India is called Cubeer Burr, in honour of a famous Saint; was much larger than it is at preſent, for high floods have at different times carried away the banks of the ſtand where it grows, and along with them ſuch parts of the tree as had extended their roots thus far: yet what ſtill remains is about 2000 feet in circumference, meaſuring round the principal ſtems; but the hanging branches, the roots of which have not reached the ground, cover a much larger extent. The chief trunks of this ſingle tree amount to 350, all ſuperior in ſize to the generality of our Engliſh oaks and elms. The ſmaller ſtems, forming into ſtronger ſupporters, are more than 3000, and from each of theſe, new branches and hanging roots are proceeding, which in time will form trunks, and become parents to a future progeny.

This tree grows on an iſland in the river Herbedda, 10 miles from the city of Baroche, in the province of Guzzaret, a flouriſhing ſettlement, lately in the poſſeſſion of the Eaſt-India Company, but ceded by the Government of Bengal, at the treaty of peace concluded with the Mahrattas in 1783, to Mahdajee, a Mahratta Chief.

Cubeer Burr is famed throughout Indoſtan for its prodigious extent, antiquity, and great beauty. The Indian armies often encamp round it, and at certain ſeaſons, ſolemn jaltarahs, or

Hindoo

Hindoo festivals, are held here, to which thousands of votaries repair from various parts of the Mogul empire. Seven thousands persons, it is said, may easily repose under its shade. There is a tradition among the natives, that this tree is 3000 years old; and there is great reason to believe it, and that it is this amazing tree which Arrian describes, when speaking of the Gymnosophists, in his book of Indian affairs;—"These people," says he, "live naked: in winter they enjoy the benefit of the sun's ray in the open air; and in summer, when the heat becomes exeessive, they pass their time in moist and marshy places, under large trees, which, according to Nearchus, cover a circumference of five acres, and extend their branches so far that 10,000 men may easily find shelter under them."

English gentlemen, when on hunting and shooting parties, used to form extensive encampments, and to spend several weeks under this delightful pavilion of foliage, which is generally filled with green wood-pidgeons, doves, peacocks, bull-bulls, and a variety of feathered songsters, together with monkeys, amusing with their droll tricks, and bats of a large size, some of which measure more than six feet, from the extremity of one wing to the other.

This tree not only affords shelter, but sustenance to all its inhabitants, being loaded with small figs of a rich scarlet colour, on which they regale with as much delight as the Lords of the Creation on their most costly viands.

Milton describes this tree, in his Ninth Book of Paradise Lost.

Answer, by W. W. of Sturminster, to J. T.'s Anagram, inserted November 14.

CHANGE a ROCK with art and care,
CORK will plain to you appear.

*** We have received the like answer from Theocritus, and H. C. Granger, of Exon; T. Gill jun. Stythians; John Tucker, Penryn; T. Taylor, Ipplepen; John Bennet, Mawgan; J. Whiteway, and Philagathus, of Dartington; J. Puddicombe, Crediton; Momentus, W. Baker, and Young Tyro, of Totnes; J. H. Lyme; T. Giles, Bridgewater; T. Scadding, Wellington; and Pyrenæus, of Buckfastleigh.

Anſwer, by T. Giles, of Bridgewater, to A. B.'s Enigma, inſerted November 21.

A COMB is very uſeful for the hair,
And oft is uſed by the pleaſing fair.

‡ We have received the like anſwer from Young Tyro, of Totnes; J. Whiteway, and Philagathus, of Dartington; T. Taylor, Ipplepen; T. Gill jun. Stythians; J. Tucker, of Penryn; W. Seaman, Calverleigh; and J. Puddicombe, of Crediton.

Anſwer, by Momentus, of Totnes, to W. Upjohn's Rebus, inſerted November 21.

THE parts ſelected ſoon will make appear,
That we enjoy four SEASONS every year.

‡†‡ We have received the like anſwer from A. Pinn, of Exmouth; W. G. and W. H. of Uffculm; T. Walker, of Hemyock; J. Puddicombe, Crediton; Young Tyro, Totnes; J. K. C. near Wells; J. Tucker, Penryn; W. S. of Exon; T. Taylor, Ipplepen; W. Seaman, Calverleigh; Hannah, Exmouth; S. Hill, near Dawliſh; T. Gill junior, of Stythians; and J. Duckham, of Tiverton.

A CHARADE, *by W. Upjohn, of Shafteſbury.*

WELCOME my firſt, whoſe ſympathetic art
Can calm the troubled mind, and eaſe the heart;
And thou my uſeful ſecond, form'd to ſave
Commercial treaſures from the briny wave;
View from my whole what often yields relief,
When we're oppreſs'd with ſorrow, pain, or grief.

A QUESTION, *by W. Upjohn, of Shaſton.*

GIVEN

$$x+y+z=22$$
$$xy+z=66$$
$$\frac{x}{y-z}=z$$

To find x, y, and z.

An ANAGRAM,

An ANAGRAM, *by A. Pinn, of Exmouth.*

TO diſpute if you tranſpoſe aright,
A joiner's tool you'll bring to ſight.

A REBUS, *by G. Kingman, of Buckland Newton.*

A Weapon, kind ſirs, is the firſt you muſt tell;
Three-fifths of a note that in muſic ſounds well;
Two-fifths of a ſtorm, and the half of a deer,
Then to you, ſirs, a well-known town will appear.

A REBUS, *by Thomas Sparkes junior, of Exeter.*

PRODUCE the poet whoſe e'er honour'd name
Before all others claims the wreath of fame;
A noted place in Devonſhire explain;
And next a city ſituate in Spain;
A Roman Emperor to ſight now bring;
The Briton name who once dethron'd his King;
That hero laſt who the foundation laid
Of that fam'd city which the nations ſway'd:
The initials join'd a hero's name defines,
Who lives to fame in Homer's ſacred lines.

*** *We earneſtly requeſt our Correſpondents to be more careful to render the different Productions they ſend correct, that we may not be obliged to leave them out on Account of their Want of Merit.—We would alſo caution the Writers of Enigmas, Rebuſſes, Charades, Queſtions, &c. &c. againſt ſending any but ſuch as are original.*

‡‖‡ *Our Correſpondents who ſend Queſtions, Enigmas, Charades, Rebuſſes, or Anagrams, are requeſted to ſend with them their genuine Solutions, as otherwiſe they cannot be inſerted.*

‖‡‖ *Our Correſpondents are requeſted to obſerve that it is expected they ſhould pay the Poſtage of their Letters, and that otherwiſe they will not ſee what they ſend inſerted.*

*** *Our Correſpondents are deſired to obſerve, that they may ſend their Favours by any of the Newſmen, free of Expence.*

*** *Enigmatical liſts of the names of young ladies generally give offence, and cannot, therefore, have a place.*

POETRY.

P O E T R Y.

For the WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

Lines on ſeeing a young Lady in bad Health.

SEE fell diſeaſe, with potent ſway,
Which riots thro' her feveriſh veins,
Has ſtole her from herſelf away,
And ſcarce her lovely form remains.

Thoſe eyes, which lately ſhone ſo bright,
No luſtre now, alas! diſcloſe;
The lily, dreſs'd in ſpotleſs white,
Now triumphs o'er the vanquiſh'd roſe.

That voice that charm'd the liſt'ning ear,
On her parch'd tongue now feebly dies;
And now, no other ſounds we hear,
But plaints, and moans, and ſtruggling ſighs.

Learn hence, ye vain and thoughtleſs fair,
Who prize the pleaſing, fading toy,
That beauty's little worth your care
Which ſickneſs can ſo ſoon deſtroy.

Topſham. N.

For the WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

Ne jura appeti aliorum.

THRO' northern climes ambition's proudeſt ſting,
Beyond the boundaries of its country ſpread,
A Norman baſe, ignobly born, ſhould fling
A dire deſtruction on a monarch's head.

Scarce was this iſle emerg'd from Daniſh pride,
Scarce had the wings of peace its ſhoulders caſt;

Was

War with its horrors ſoon began to hide,
  That glory which in nations ſeldom laſt.

By fierce ambition did he vainly cloke,
  His falſe pretences to an Engliſh throne,
But Engliſh hatred to a foreign yoke,
  Is nature's gift, for ever will be known.

High on the waves majeſtic'ly they roll,
  Rude Boreas wafts the inſtruments of death;
The din of war is heard from pole to pole,
  Eager to graſp, and ſtop the vital breath.

Elated hope, with ſavage fury bent
  He ſtrides impetuous to the fatal field;
Harold the weakneſs of thy force repent,
  Thy ſoul may conquer, but the man muſt yield.

Maintaining right he fell in virtue's cauſe,
  A cauſe recorded by immortal fame,
Such right uſurp'd, forbid by nature's laws,
  Reflects diſhonour on a Norman name.

For glories vain do monarchs peace aſſail,
  The prize tho' gain'd yet ſtill ſome trouble brings,
Ambition's force too oft we find prevail,
  The pride of heroes, and the fall of Kings.

Exeter, Decembr 29, 1791. R.

A CHILD *to his* SICK GRANDFATHER.

GRAND-DAD, they ſay you're old and frail,
  Your ſtocked legs begin to fail:
Your nobbed ſtick (that was my horſe)
Can ſcarce ſupport your bended corſe;
While back to wall you lean ſo ſad,
  I'm vex'd to ſee you, dad.

You us'd to ſmile, and ſtroke my head,
And tell me how good children did;
But now I wot not how it be,
You take me ſeldom on your knee;
Yet ne'ertheleſs I am right glad
  To ſit beſide you, dad.

How

How lank and thin your beard hangs down!
Scant are the white hairs on your crown:
How wan and hollow are your cheeks!
Your brow is rough with crossing breaks;
But yet, for all his strength is fled,
I love my own old dad.

The housewives round their potions brew,
And gossips come to ask for you:
And for your weal each neighbour cares,
And good men kneel, and say their pray'rs:
And ev'ry body looks so sad,
When you are ailing, dad.

You will not die, and leave us then?
Rouse up and be our dad again.
When you are quiet laid in bed,
We'll doff our shoes and softly tread;
And when you wake we'll aye be near,
To fill old dad his cheer.

When thro' the house you shift your stand,
I'll lead you kindly by the hand:
When dinner's set, I ll with you bide,
And aye be serving by your side:
And when the weary fire burns blue,
I'll sit and talk with you.

I have a tale both long and good,
About a partlet and her brood;
And cunning greedy fox that stole,
By dead of midnight thro' a hole,
Which slyly to the hen-roost led—
You love a story, dad?

And then I have a wondrous tale
Of men all clad in coats of mail,
With glitt'ring swords—you nod, I think?
Your fixed eyes begin to wink:
Down on your bosom sinks your head:
You do not hear me, dad.

A REFLECTION.

CONTENT's the greatest blessing mortals know,
Whether your station is or high or low.

[*Given Gratis to the Purchasers of* The Sherborne Mercury *and* Weekly Entertainer.]

A GENERAL REVIEW OF THE State of European Politics, For DECEMBER, 1791.

STATE OF EUROPE.

THE political horizon, at present, exhibits a ſtate of tranquillity which, like a calm before a ſtorm, preſages perhaps the moſt violent convulſions. As the monarchs in Europe view the late revolution in France with an eye of jealouſy, they appear to be diſpoſed to concur in any ſcheme to overturn it; though each is afraid, at the ſame time, to be the firſt in motion for that purpoſe. Amidſt the various and contradictory reports circulated by the partizans of different ſyſtems, it is difficult, however, to eſtabliſh any conſiſtent ideas reſpecting their views; it is nevertheleſs pretty evident that negociations are now carrying on, which are far from being of a pacific nature.

RUSSIA.

Among the Sovereigns who appear moſt zealous as antirevolutioniſts, we may reckon the *Empreſs of Ruſſia*, who as is ſaid, has entered into an alliance with her neighbour the King of Sweden, to ſupport the cauſe of the French Princes, who ſtill refuſe to embrace the offers made to them, and with the utmoſt haughtineſs ſet the authority of the National Aſſembly at defiance. In conſequence of this treaty, the Empreſs, we are told, has engaged to furniſh a body of 12,000 men, with an annual ſubſidy of 300,000 roubles; his Swediſh Majeſty is left at liberty

liberty to employ theſe troops, ſhould it be found neceſſary, in any manner he may think proper; and Ruſſia agrees to guarantee the conſtitution of Sweden, and the act of ſafety of April 3d, 1789, as well as the tranquillity of the kingdom, both externally and internally, during the abſence of the King in foreign parts. Such are the outlines of this treaty, for the authenticity of which we will not vouch, though it is beyond a doubt that the French *Charges des Affaires* have not yet been officially received either at the court of Peterſburgh, or that of Stockholm. But as the politics of courts are extremely changeable, matters may take a very different turn before the ſeaſon commences for action. A confederacy of this kind, to prove effectual, muſt be ſtrengthed by the aſſiſtance of other powers; who, however much inclined to unite in it, may yet find it inconvenient with their own intereſt: Beſides, Catherine II. herſelf, who ſeems to take the moſt active part iu promoting this deſign, may not be able to carry her plans ſo eaſily into execution. She has long wielded the ſceptre with unlimited ſway, and acted a conſpicuous part on the public theatre of Europe; but there is no impropriety in ſuppoſing that her influence in the cabinet may be on the decline.

Prince Potemkin was far from being entitled by his birth to that diſtinction which he acquired through the favour and friendſhip of Catherine II. He was originally from Poland; and thoſe public and private cauſes which contributed to his advancement are well known. No perſon was ever a greater object of jealouſy, or had more inveterate enemies; yet ſo great was his influence with the Empreſs, that he defeated all their cabals; and, what is ſtill more extraordinary, was never betrayed by any of thoſe ſubaltern favourites whoſe riſe in life he had promoted. His boundleſs ambition, his enterpriſing genius, and his exceſſive extravagance, produced the late wars between Ruſſia and the Ottoman Porte. No court minion was ever more laviſh in his expences. There are many ſovereigns who do not poſſeſs revenues equal to thoſe which Potemkin ſpent; and a noble colony might be founded with the value of the preſents beſtowed upon him by the Empreſs for his ſervices. His luxury equalled that of an ancient Perſian Satrap, or Roman Proconſul. In the middle of winter, when the Nava was frozen over, his table was covered with the moſt delicious fruits, forced by Engliſh gardeners, and, among others, with cherries which coſt the moderate ſum of a rouble each. [About four ſhillings ſterling.] Few Princes gave an audience with more ſtate. Some Livonian gentlemen, we are told, of very high

rank,

rank, who went to Peterſburgh on affairs of importance, being preſented to this favourite, found him in an undreſs, playing at cards with his nieces. When they were announced, he ſcarcely deigned to look at them: And, continuing his game, diſmiſſed them without any other compliment or ceremony than an ordinary ſalute. Under the exterior figure of a Scythian, Potemkin, however, poſſeſſed ſtrong natural parts, and a vigorous mind improved by cultivation. When he thought proper to enter into converſation with ſtrangers, they found him both inſtructive and entertaining. So rapid and ſo long a career could not, indeed, have been ſupported but by a man of great talents and firmneſs of character. Having become maſter of the Ruſſian empire, he increaſed its internal weakneſs, while he was adding to its external glory. It has generally been ſuppoſed, that this ſucceſsful warrior had formed a plan for eſtabliſhing an independent principality, which might ſhelter him from the viciſſitudes of courts, and the danger of being exiled to Siberia. In proſecution of this deſign, he directed his views firſt towards Moldavia, then to the Ukraine, and afterwards to Courland; but unforeſeen obſtacles always interpoſed to prevent the execution of his vaſt enterpriſes. He died at the age of fifty, leaving to his heirs the rich territory of Smila in Poland, which contains 30,000 ſerfs; and the whole of his property is eſtimated at the immenſe ſum of from thirty-five to forty millions of roubles, or about ſeven millions ſterling. Decorated with all the orders of Ruſſia, he was honoured alſo with thoſe of Pruſſia, Poland, Denmark, and Sweden. The names of the dignities which he enjoyed, and the employments he held, would fill a volume. He was Field-Marſhal and Commander in Chief of all the armies of Ruſſia; General of the Cavalry; Admiral of the Fleets on the Black and Caſpian ſeas, and on that of Azoph; Senator, and Preſident of the Council of War; Governor-General of Katarinaſlaff and Tauride; Adjutant-General and Chamberlain to the Empreſs; Inſpector-General of the Armies; Colonel of the Guards of Peobraſinſki; Colonel of the Horſe-Guards, of a Regiment of Cuiraſſiers diſtinguiſhed by his own name, of the Dragoons of Peterſburgh and Katarinaſlaff; Chief of all the Armouries and Founderies; and Grand Hetman of the Coſſacks.

Since the death of Prince Potemkin the party of the *Grand Duke of Ruſſia*, who were averſe to the Turkiſh war, begin to exclaim againſt the expences into which that meaſure involved the nation; and, at the ſame time, openly declare their opinion reſpecting the impolicy of interfering in the affairs of France.

Catherine,

Catherine, who has now loſt her great favourite and ſupport, muſt find herſelf in a very awkward and unpleaſant ſituation between contending factions; and if the Grand Duke's party take the lead, ſhe may be reduced to the neceſſity of abandoning a cauſe which, at preſent, ſhe ſeems to eſpouſe with a kind of enthuſiaſtic zeal. The ſupply of money which ſhe lately ſent to the fugitive Princes, leaves us in no doubt reſpecting her ſentiments in their favour; but whether ſhe will perform any thing farther time only can diſcover.

P O L A N D.

What may tend to make her Imperial Majeſty a little more circumſpect in her conduct is, the ſituation of *Poland*, the crown of which, notwithſtanding the negociations that have for ſome time paſt taken place, is not yet finally ſettled. The *Elector of Saxony*, to whom the hereditary ſucceſſion has been offered, upon certain conditions, has, with a prudence worthy of an enlightened Prince, withheld his aſſent until the throne ſhall be eſtabliſhed on a firm and laſting baſis. In his reply to the diet upon this head, he obſerves, that there are ſeveral points in the fundamental laws of Poland which involve important doubts, and which appear to him to require explanation before he can enter into any deliberation on the *pacta conventa*. That, from theſe conſiderations, he is induced to think that the beſt method of clearing up theſe doubts would be to appoint proper perſons, on the part of the King and the republic, to confer with others named by him, in order that thoſe obſtacles may be removed which prevent his coming to a determination; and he concludes with remarking, very juſtly, that the republic will be expoſed to leſs danger from the delay that may be occaſioned by this conference, than it would be from his forming a precipitate reſolution. The Diet, ſenſible of the propriety of the Elector's ideas, have choſen Prince Adam de Czartoriſki, Noncio of Lublin, and General of Podolia, to proceed to Dreſden in quality of Plenipotentiary, who, in conjunction with M. Malachowſki, Miniſter of the Republic at the Electoral Court, may diſcharge the miſſion required by his Electoral Highneſs. Mean time the Diet keep a watchful eye on the motions of the neighbouring courts, to whom this affair cannot be a matter of indifference. It has been aſſerted, that, at the conference of Pilnitz, the Emperor and the King of Pruſſia agreed to guarantee the preſent frontiers of Poland; to ſecure the crown to the Elector of Saxony; and independence, and the future choice of a

huſband

husband for the Infanta, to the republic. This, however, appears to be only conjecture; and, considering it as such, we forbear to offer any comment upon it.

B R A B A N T.

The commotions of the *States of Brabant* have not yet entirely subsided; and notwithstanding the admonitory declarations of government, and the decrees of the Sovereign Council, they are still firm in their opposition. A letter, therefore, has been addressed to them in the name of the Emperor, in which his intention is declared, of not admitting into the council of Brabant the five counsellors who sat during the troubles, under an oath incompatible with that which they had taken to him, except in the regular course of justice, which he leaves open to them. In order to support this measure, and disconcert the views of the diffidents, government proposed to Baron Hop, the Minister of the States-General, a treaty for preserving the tranquillity of both countries; and in consequence of a proposition made to their High Mightinesses by the Stadtholder, they have professed it to be their intention to concur, as far as lies in their power, to support measures for promoting so desirable an object. It is probable, therefore, that those refractory subjects, who are no doubt misled by party, will soon be reduced to obedience, and that peace will once more be restored to the Netherlands.

F R A N C E.

Two objects of a very serious nature engage at present the attention of the *French National Assembly*; the apprehensions of a foreign invasion, and the late dreadful insurrection in the island of St. Domingo. As the ex-princes seem to pay little attention to the remonstrances of their royal brother, or the threats of the Assembly; and as they are openly encouraged by Russia and other Courts of Europe, the idea of an attempt to produce a counter-revolution begins to be revived, and to be spoken of as a matter which is far from improbable. Russia*, Sweden,

* In the year 1788 M. Volney, well known by his Travels through Syria, published a pamphlet, in which he endeavoured to prove that Catherine II. and the late Emperor Joseph, ought, for the good of humanity, and the benefit of mankind, to exterminate the Turks, and take possession of their territories. Having afterwards transmitted a copy of his writings to the Empress, she sent him.

Sweden, and Spain, make no ſecret of their ſentiments on this ſubject; the Emperor, finding caution to be neceſſary, as he is nearer to the focus of liberty, acts with more reſerve; but as the preſent ſeaſon will not admit of military operations, no other ſteps can be purſued, except ſuch as depend upon preparations and negociation. What the ſpring may produce, muſt be left to time. Should a civil war take place ſoon in France, the conſequences to that country, in the infancy of its conſtitution, and before its finances are eſtabliſhed, muſt be dangerous. That dread is entertained on this point, is demonſtrated by the conduct of the National Aſſembly, who think it expedient to have in readineſs an army of 150,000 men, commanded by experienced Generals. Under ſuch circumſtances, it might not be improper to propoſe terms of accommodation to the diſſidents; and to new model thoſe parts of the conſtitution which have given moſt offence to the nobility, and officers of the army and navy. This might be performed without offering violence to the rights of man, or injuring thoſe fundamental points which ſecure the liberty and property of the ſubject. The effuſion of human blood ought, if poſſible, to be avoided, and we ſincerely hope that the moderate part of the French nation will not have occaſion to exclaim with the poet,

Quis furor O cives, quæ tanta licentia ferri?

St. DOMINGO.

This iſland has afforded a ſtriking and melancholy inſtance of the miſeries that ariſe from inteſtine diſcord. The particulars of this lamentable calamity are not yet fully known; but from the partial details laid before the National Aſſembly, it appears that it has been attended with ſcenes of the moſt ſhocking barbarity; and that ſuch of the inhabitants as eſcaped the fury of the ſavages have been reduced to the utmoſt diſtreſs. A white child, we are told, impaled on the point of a lance, ſerved the negroes as a ſtandard; and the country wherever they went was expoſed to the ravages of fire and the ſword. A negro who had received

his

him a gold medal by the hands of Baron de Grimm; but as Catherine had granted her protection to the fugitive Prince, M. Volney has recently returned the medal to the Baron, accompanied with a letter, ſtating, that he did not chooſe to ſhare her Imperial Majeſty's gold with unnatural and perverſe men, the champions of barbarity and iniquity.

his liberty, and a donation of ten thouſand livres§, from a gentlemen of the name of Gauthier, had the baſeneſs to ſet fire to the houſe of his benefactor; and this deteſtable act of ingratitude entitled him to the rank of a General. What is related of the conduct of the Spaniards on this occaſion, is hardly credible, were it not authenticated by the report of the commiſſioners ſent to France by the General Aſſembly of St. Domingo. They not only drove back ſuch of the whites as fled to them for protection, but on receiving a few doubloons, even gave up many of them to their purſuers, who immediately put them to death. Such inhuman behaviour gives us great reaſon to ſuſpect, that theſe perfidious neighbours may have taken a very active part in fomenting this rebellion; for thoſe who could refuſe aſſiſtance to men in ſuch a dreadful ſituation, would almoſt be guilty of any action, however atrocious. The commiſſioners eſtimate the loſs ſuſtained by this inſurrection and revolt, at ſix hundred millions of livres‖. The negroes killed are ſaid to amount to fifteen thouſand, and the whites to one thouſand. From this detail it appears, that this fine colony is nearly ruined, and that many years will be required before it can be reſtored to its former flouriſhing condition.

A L G I E R S.

The *Dey of Algiers*, againſt whom Spain declared war, ſoon after his coming to the throne, with that inſolence which characteriſes the petty tyrants of Africa, was lately on the eve of commencing hoſtilities alſo againſt France. M. Miſſieſſi-Guies and Captain Dommergues having, however, been diſpatched to adjuſt matters by negociation, theſe gentlemen were received with uncommon marks of politeneſs, and ſucceeded in accompliſhing the object of their miſſion. It would appear that the new Dey, elated with his power, is deſirous of entering upon his government with eclat, and of diſplaying his warlike diſpoſition, if not by actual courage, at leaſt by appearances; for he has declared war likewiſe againſt Sweden, with a view to preſents, which never fail to purchaſe a peace. While we find a contemptible deſpot thus inſulting ſome of the moſt reſpectable powers in Europe, we cannot help expreſſing our aſtoniſhment that a confederation has never been formed to deſtroy thoſe piratical peſts of Barbary, who have ſo long acted

§ About 800l. ſterling.

‖ Twenty-five millions ſterling.

acted the part of public robbers, and proved a material restraint upon commerce.

I N D I A.

In closing this political sketch with the affairs of *India*, we shall only observe, that our operations there have not been so successful as was expected. The disappointment which Lord Cornwallis experienced from the rainy season, which commenced sooner than expected, has proved unfortunate, and must greatly retard the accomplishment of his views. *The meeting of Parliament*, which is summoned for the end of January, will give the minister and his opponents sufficient employment. And the leaders of both parties are collecting their troops, instructing them in their exercises, and preparing for the approaching political campaign. At other periods of our history Mr. Pitt might have found it difficult to justify such measures as his late armaments against Spain and Russia, and the war in India; all of them seemingly ineffectual, and attended with enormous expence to this country. But the present system of administration is complete. The minister will repose with confidence upon a decided majority in both Houses, which, aided by the contentions of opposition, and their want of popularity, ensures to him, at the present moment, perfect security. He has only to guard against additional taxes, which, affecting the poor or industrious, may excite popular murmuring, the consequences of which, like an epidemical contagion, are ever to be dreaded.

[*This Half Sheet is intended to be bound up with the Weekly Entertainer, and is paged accordingly.*]